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Recommended Citation

WKU Honors Program, "UA35/11 The Honorable Mention" (1994). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 3148.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/3148

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The Honorable Mention

University Honors Program

Honors Program Changes?

For several months, the Honors Committee has discussed several Honors curriculum problems. First, a two-year rotation of courses is needed so that students can plan their Honors courses far in advance. Second, the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) recommends that at least 20% of an Honors student's work be in Honors, but our 21-hour Program is only 16% of the 128 hours needed for graduation. Third, more Honors science courses are needed, both beginning courses for science majors and other science courses appropriate for non-science majors. A strong Honors program should include science as well as the humanities. Finally, a way is needed to help insure that Honor students complete their Honors work on a timely basis; some now postpone beginning Honors courses until it is too late to complete the Program.

No Program changes will apply to current students. The Committee has made only one decision, but others are likely soon. In the future, students will need to take at least 6 of their first 30 hours, 12 of their first 60, and 18 of their first 90 to continue in Honors. When necessary, this guideline may be suspended with permission.

To comply with NCHC, the Honors Program may require 24 or 27 hours rather than the current 21. If so, one Category D course, science or math, may also be required. Ogden College has been asked to offer one math and three science Honors courses each semester beginning next spring.

The next **Honorable Mention** will provide an update.

Honors Housing Update

By April 25th, 96 Honors women and 76 Honors men had applied for Honors housing in Rodes-Harlin (not including 18 requests for non-Honors roommates). The 8th floor will be exclusively for Honors women and the 9th for Honors men.

When Housing Director Tolbert told Rodes-Harlin residents that they were being displaced, many of them seemed quite upset. As a compromise, I agreed that about 18 non-Honors women may remain on the 6th floor and a similar number non-Honors men on the 7th. Several of these students may move voluntarily to lower floors, but we won't force them to do so. While we regret not having full use of the 6th and 7th floors, we obviously do not want to enter Rodes-Harlin to lots of hostility from non-Honors residents.

Since more students want Honors housing than can be placed on the top four floors, the Housing Office has given us all vacant rooms on the 4th and 5th floors. However, we will be limited to the 96 women who have applied and to 88 men. Since more applications will arrive during the summer, waiting lists for both men and women seem likely. We will place every possible applicant in Honors housing.

Frequently Asked Question

Q: Do I really want to write a Senior Honors Thesis?

A: Yes! (For a more complete answer, see page 5).



Graduate Fellowships

Honor students who plan to pursue prestigious graduate fellowships should start making plans as sophomores! With the aid of a good advisor, they should develop clear and specific career goals as early as possible. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) must be taken by the fall semester of their senior year. Call 3159. Six prestigious awards are described below:

--**The Rhodes Scholarship.** Thirty-two unmarried U. S. citizens under the age of twenty-four receive scholarships to study at Oxford University. The awards, which cover tuition and an annual living allowance of \$16,066, may be held for either two or three years. Applications are due by mid-October. For more information, contact Mr. Walker Rutledge, English Department, 745-5762.

--**Andrew Mellon Fellowships in Humanistic Studies.** Designed for students who are preparing for teaching careers in humanistic studies, each of these eighty fellowships carries a stipend of \$12,500 plus tuition and fees. The awards are applicable to any graduate school of the student's choice. November 30th is the usual deadline. For more information, contact Mr. Rutledge.

--**British Marshall Scholarships.** To express their gratitude for American aid under the Marshall Plan, the British government authorized forty scholarships for U.S. citizens who wish to study in the United Kingdom. The awards "are tenable at any British university and cover two years of study in any discipline, at either the undergraduate or graduate level." The total value of the scholarship is \$20,250 per year. Applications must be submitted by mid-October. Mr. Rutledge has details.

--**Harry S. Truman Scholarships.** The Truman Foundation awards ninety \$30,000 scholarships each year to college juniors -- \$3,000 for the senior year and \$27,000 for graduate study. Applicant must be planning careers "in public service either in government, public-interest organizations, research or educational organizations, or in other organizations designed to help disadvantaged persons or to protect the environment." Many fields of study are appropriate. One awardee is selected from each state; the other forty are given to the top remaining nominees. Application deadline is November 1st. For more information, contact Dr. McFarland in the Honors office, 745-2081.

--**Phi Kappa Phi Scholarships.** The National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi awards 50 graduate scholarships of up to \$7,000 each year for first-year graduate study in any discipline. Students elected to Phi Kappa Phi membership (juniors with 3.85+ gpa, seniors with 3.80 gpa) will automatically receive information.

--**The Student Fulbright Grant.** Fulbright grants are for study or research in many foreign countries. The stipend covers travel and living costs, a research allowance, and tuition waivers, if applicable. Applicants must have sufficient proficiency in the language of the host country to carry out their proposed study or research. The application deadline is due in late September. Contact Ms. Donna K. Cheshire, 1 Cherry Hall, 745-5333, for complete information.

For many other good graduate fellowships and scholarships, read **The Graduate Scholarship Book** either in the Helm reference room or in the Honors office.

AWARDS TO HONORS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



On April 10, 1994,
Western honored 172

students at the Awards Ceremony. Twenty-four were Honors Program participants.

Melissa Rose received the Sherilyn Gale Rinehart Scholarship for scholarship and artistic accomplishment.

Heath Seymour received the Jack E. Lunt Scholarship for excellence in scholarship and artistic accomplishment.

Grayson Wells was awarded the Ann McKeel Ross Scholarship for excellence in artistic accomplishment.

Billy T. Dye was presented the Outstanding Biology Student Award for excellence in scholarship.

Kara Kleeman received the Achievement in Freshman Chemistry Award for her outstanding scholarship.

Nicole Kline was given the American Institute of Chemists Award for outstanding scholarship as a Senior Chemistry Major.

David Lam was awarded the Achievement in Organic Chemistry Award for outstanding scholarship.

Robert Mattingly was recipient of the Patrick Henry Vincent Oratory Award for excellence in speech and debate.

Julie Davis was one of the Honors Program Scholar of the Year recipients and also was awarded the J. Richard Oexmann Forensics Award for excellence in speech and debate.

William T. Stinson received the Outstanding Computer Science Senior Student Award for excellence in scholarship and contributions to the Department.

Lara Briner was presented the Marie Adams Phi Upsilon Omicron Academic Achievement Award for her

excellence in scholarship as a graduating senior with the highest overall g.p.a. She was also recognized as Who's Who Among Colleges and Universities.

Todd Dykes received the Honors Scholar of the Year Award.

Robert Baas received the Kenneth T. and Maria Cann Scholarship for excellence in the Economics Department.

Lesley Wolfgang received the Mary Lucille Scott Scholarship and the William R. Walls, Jr. International Travel Award for excellence in the English and Modern Language Departments.

Eddie T. Goggans, III received the Outstanding Senior in Computer Information Systems Award for excellent scholarship. Eddie also received an Honors Scholar of the Year Award.

Erik Goodwyn was recognized with the Pi Mu Epsilon Award for Outstanding Sophomore Mathematics Major.

Amy Michele Walters receives the Hugh F. and Katherine Alexander Johnson Award for Outstanding Junior Mathematics Major.

Cory Hollon received the Department of Philosophy and Religion Award for his excellent scholarship.

Islamshah Amlani was awarded the George V. Page Physics Award for excellent scholarship.

Kelly Goedert was named Outstanding Senior in Psychology for her scholastic achievement.

Connie Holmes received in the Teacher Education Department the Wanda Mayfield Page Scholarship for excellence in scholarship.

Kelly Brillhart was awarded the Honors Program Scholar of the Year Award.

Dawn Ballard was recognized as Who's Who Among Colleges and Universities.

THANK YOU

Pennie Roberts, Melissa Somerville, John Whetstine, and Danielle Kirtley deserve a special thank you for assisting with the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 10. Pennie and Melissa assisted in handing out programs and in serving punch at the reception. John and Danielle made sure award recipients were in proper order.

We also appreciate three Spirit Masters who helped with the reception. They were Elaine Pierce, Heather Meenach, and Heather Hall.

TEAM PLACES 4TH IN NFA



We are proud to report that two honors participants, **Adam Black** and **Chris Fleming**, a duo team in the National Forensic Association Championships placed 4th out of 284 teams. This was the first time that Western had a national finalist in an interpretation event.

Western's Lincoln Douglas Debate Team placed 4th Overall. Congratulations to the Honors students on that team: **Julie Davis, Robert Mattingly, Chris Roberts,** and **Amy Stewart!**

WHAT'S GOING ON THIS SUMMER?

Niki Hodson is working at the Cincinnati Union terminal in the Museum Center.

Pam Howell has "no earthly clue" what's up for her this summer.

Tricia Drury is going on a summer mission project with Campus Crusade for

Christ to Myrtle Beach, SC for 10 weeks. Tricia will have work to do but will also enjoy the beach.

Dr. McFarland and his family will "vacate" in July to southern Utah to the Canyonlands and Arches National Park.

Stephen Smith and **Natasha Clark** will be wed on May 21. They will both work full-time this summer; Steve, at Kinkos and Natasha, at Best Western.

Julie Davis is on an internship program giving tours at the GM plant here in Bowling Green.

Lena Sweeten Garner is voluntarily working on her Senior Thesis here on campus.

Tricia Fulkerson is going home to look for a full-time job in Henderson, KY.

April Hicks is staying in Bowling Green to take classes here at Western.

Chris Fleming is working full-time in Louisville, KY.

Brian Grace is attending the Health Careers Opportunity Program at the University of Kentucky.

Anthony Honeycutt is going to work two jobs in order to save extra money.

Terrance Atwood is taking a class at Western as a pre-requisite for his major.

Robert Bracken hopes for a full-time job in his hometown, Portland, TN.

Jason Sutton is coaching football at Franklin Simpson High School along with taking classes at Western.

Elizabeth Epley will work at Frank Otte Nursery on Scottsville Road.

The Honors Program staff wishes all students a safe and fun-filled summer! ☺

CONGRATULATIONS!

Josh Swetnam has been chosen as a member of the men's cheerleading squad for the 1994-1995 year.

Why Write an Honors Thesis?

Writing a senior honors thesis seems like a dreadful task to many, and for that reason quite a few students don't complete the Honors Program. The Honors Committee and Director view the thesis as an indispensable element of an Honors education, however. It is by no means just an arbitrary requirement students must fulfill in order to complete the Program.

The honors thesis is often the most valuable educational activity in a student's undergraduate career. In writing the thesis, students take a giant step from passive to active scholarship. The thesis offers a capable undergraduate the first (or at least, the greatest) opportunity to produce original scholarly work in one's own discipline. Students in history, for example, usually begin the thesis project thinking of themselves as history **students**; when they have finished, they know that they can also be **historians**.

The thesis helps students learn to examine issues with greater subtlety and precision than is possible in any class or independent study, to integrate diverse perspectives and materials into a comprehensive framework, and to write coherent, longer papers (most theses are between 40 and 90 pages). Students in the physical and social sciences may take major steps in developing their experimental research skills.

By writing the senior honors thesis, students develop enormous self-confidence in their academic abilities. Those who complete the thesis are exceedingly proud of their achievement; those who do not often regret that they did not use this opportunity to enlarge their research skills and demonstrate their creative scholarship.

For students planning on graduate or professional school, writing the thesis provides invaluable experience in preparing for the similar work expected there. The

thesis helps students learn to develop long-term schedules and manage time, vital skills for graduate study success.

Since few applicants to graduate and professional schools have written honors theses, a completed thesis is often quite impressive to these schools. For that reason, students are encouraged to write the thesis during the spring semester of the junior year and during the fall of the senior year; copies of the thesis can be sent to these schools along with the application.

The title of the senior honors thesis appears as the last entry on the student's undergraduate transcript. This entry provides an unusual and prominent distinction on the student's permanent record for prospective employers and graduate schools.

What Others Say --

"I'm almost like a new parent with my thesis. Everyone I see has to admire it. Even though the entire process scared me at first, I'm glad I did it and finished it. The thesis is truly an accomplishment to be proud of."

-- Julie Davis

"The senior thesis is very enriching and rewarding. It has given me a greater sense of self-awareness and self-direction. As a result of writing this paper with the help of a wonderful and encouraging advisor, I can graduate as an accountant, not as an accounting major."

-- Lori Burton

"The senior thesis is a vehicle for self-discovery. If used correctly, it will lead you to know your disciplined self, and it will make you realize how truly wonderful it is to be a thinking contributor to society's collective psyche."

-- Todd Dykes

Surely, I said, knowledge is the food of the soul; and we must take care, my friend, that the Sophist does not deceive us when he praises what he sells, like the dealers wholesale or retail who sell food for the body; for they praise indiscriminately all their goods, without knowing what are really beneficial or hurtful. . . . In like manner those who carry about the wares of knowledge, and make the round of the cities, and sell or retail them to any customer who is in want of them, praise them all alike; though I should not wonder, O my friend, if many of them were really ignorant of their effect upon the soul. . . . If, therefore, you have understanding of what is good and evil you may safely buy knowledge of Protagoras or of any one; but if not, then, O my friend, pause, and do not hazard your dearest interests at a game of chance. For there is far greater peril in buying knowledge than in buying meat and drink. . .

-- Plato, *Protagoras*

Man can adapt himself to slavery, but he reacts to it by lowering his intellectual and moral qualities; he can adapt himself to a culture permeated by distrust and hostility, but he reacts to this adaptation by becoming weak and sterile. Man can adapt himself to cultural conditions that demand repression, but in achieving this adaptation he develops neurotic symptoms. He can adapt himself to almost any culture pattern, but in so far as these are contradictory to human nature he develops mental and emotional disturbances which force him eventually to change these conditions since he cannot change his nature.

Man is not a blank sheet of paper on which culture can write its text. He is an entity charged with energy and structured in specific ways, which, while adapting itself, reacts in specific and ascertainable ways to external conditions. . . . Human evolution is rooted both in man's adaptability and in certain indestructible qualities of his nature which compel him never to cease his search for conditions better adjusted to his intrinsic needs.

-- Erich Fromm, *Man for Himself*

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